



## News Release

Contact:

Thomas A. Fitzgerald  
Chief Financial Officer  
978.232.8370, ext. 15  
[tfitzgerald@zymequest.com](mailto:tfitzgerald@zymequest.com)

### **ZymeQuest Licenses Proprietary Enzyme Technology to Publicly Traded Life Sciences Company**

*Licensee Pays \$2 Million Upfront; Agrees to Future Product Royalties;  
ZymeQuest Retains Full Technology Rights for Core Transfusion Medicine Applications*

**Beverly, Massachusetts, January 2, 2008** – ZymeQuest, Inc. today announced that it has entered into an exclusive worldwide agreement to license certain patent applications associated with its proprietary enzyme conversion technology to a publicly traded U.S. life sciences company. The licensee plans to use the enzyme technology for product applications associated with its business, which is outside ZymeQuest’s areas of focus. ZymeQuest retains all rights to the use of its patent applications in the development of products related to transfusion medicine.

The licensee has paid ZymeQuest an initial licensing fee of \$2 million. In addition, the license agreement provides for the payment of royalties based on production levels of the products made using ZymeQuest’s technology, including guaranteed minimum royalties commencing in 2008.

“To respect the competitive position of the licensee we are not at liberty to disclose its name at this time, but I can say that the organization is a pioneer in the field of biomaterials, and we are delighted to partner with a company of this caliber,” stated Douglas L. Clibourn, President and Chief Executive Officer of ZymeQuest. “This agreement validates both the discoveries made by our science team and the strategic value of our technology in the marketplace. In addition, the agreement represents an exciting revenue opportunity for ZymeQuest as we continue to advance our enzyme technology toward potential commercialization.”

#### **About ZymeQuest, Inc.**

ZymeQuest, Inc. is a clinical-stage company developing proprietary technologies directed at transforming transfusion medicine. ZymeQuest’s product-candidates are designed to make blood transfusions safer, more effective and less costly. The Company’s red blood cell technology addresses a worldwide health crisis – the shortage of group O red blood cells (RBCs) available for transfusion. ZymeQuest uses proprietary enzymes, methods and devices to convert blood groups A, B and AB to enzyme-converted group O (ECO®) red cells. In clinical studies,

ZymeQuest has demonstrated that ECO red cells may be transfused safely to patients of any blood group just as with group O blood. ZymeQuest has partnered with Chiron, a Novartis business, for the commercialization of its ECO technology.

Separately, ZymeQuest is developing a technology based on a joint invention with Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital that allows platelets to be stored under refrigeration rather than at room temperature. Platelets stored at room temperature have a high risk of bacterial contamination, and thus may be stored for no more than seven days.

ZymeQuest is developing other product-candidates unrelated to ECO conversion or platelets. The Company's patent portfolio, covering ECO, platelets and other technologies, comprises 32 patents and patent applications internationally.

###